

**Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council
held on the 14th April 2011 at 7.30pm
in The Parish Hall**

Present

R Kingdon (Chairman)
M Pine (Vice Chairman)
P Bonds
J Friend
R George
M Hayward
R Vogler

Officer: G Dwyer (Clerk)

Also in Attendance PCSO G Woolaway, North Devon Councillor F J Tucker.

Apr11/1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from County Councillor Davis.

Apr11/2 Public question Time

- A member of the public reported that a recently filled pothole adjacent to the Almshouses in Shirwell Village had started to degrade.
- A question was asked regarding the registration of the Village Green and the questioner was informed that the process was ongoing.
- A member of the public informed the Council that the planning application for The Glebe had been refused but the point was made that the lay-by needed to be formally acknowledged as the property of the County Council.

RESOLVED

1. The Clerk be instructed to write to Devon County Council explaining the importance of the lay-by to the village and stressing that it should not be given away as part of a planning permission
 2. The Clerk write to North Devon planners reminding them that there is a Devon bank adjacent to the lay-by.
- A member of the public complained about cars parking haphazardly adjacent to the Almshouses. PCSO Woollaway noted the complaint and undertook to take what action he could.

Apr11/3 Minutes of the meeting held on the 10th March 2011

RESOLVED

That the minutes as previously circulated be approved.

Apr11/4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Apr11/5 Matters Brought Forward from the Previous Meeting

It was noted that any matters brought forward from the previous meeting had been placed on the agenda.

Apr11/6 Cheques for Payment

Cheques in the sum of 78.93 for the Devon Association of Local Councils, Clerks Salary £100.00; administration expenses £52.58 and Land Registry in the sum of £10.00 were signed at the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the cheques as listed above be signed

Apr11/7 Report of the County Councillor

The County Councillor apologised for her non attendance but had forwarded her report which was summarised by the Clerk. It was noted in particular that there was a problem with fly tipping.

Apr11/8 Questions to the County Councillor

There were no questions to the County Councillor.

Apr11/9 Report of the District Councillor

The District Councillors report was deferred as he had advised of his late arrival.

Apr11/10 Report of Police Representative

PCSO Woollaway reported 4 incidents, 3 of which were road traffic offences and one other suspect vehicle. Crime in the area was nil.

He advised Council that there would be changes in the police service from the 20 May with major restructuring in the way policing is delivered. Details will be available later as changes were still being negotiated.

Apr11/11 Questions to the Police Representative

- It was noted that a member of the public (Mrs N Incedon) would be willing to be trained in use of the speed camera as would the Chairman of the School Parent Teachers Association. It was noted that any speed monitoring would need to include the main road and more volunteers were required.
- A comment was made regarding the speeding in the Burrige area and PCSO Woollaway undertook to take what action he could.

Apr11/12 Correspondence

Letter from Methodist Church Circuit acknowledging receipt of grant for £75.00

Good Councillors booklet

NDC Standards Committee minutes

Tithe Map project

Apr11/13 Planning Applications

There were none

Apr11/14 Planning Decisions

Planning Application 51468 erection of 6 dwellings and garages at The Glebe, Shirwell. **REFUSED**

Planning Application 51824 prior notice of erection of Polytunnel at Youlston Park Shirwell – **no application required**

Planning Application No. 51245 Extension to dwelling including covered patio and hot tub and change of use of agricultural land to domestic curtilage (amended description and plans) at the Tower View – Shirwell **APPROVAL**

Apr11/15 Parish Council Web Site – Position Statement

The Clerk reported that the payment of £360.00 had been received from North Devon Council. Councillor Pine requested the Council's advice for what text they would like to see on the website. Councillor Friend offered to do what he could to help.

RESOLVED

A vote of thanks be recorded for the grant received from the District Councillor.

Apr11/16 Annual Meeting of the Parish

RESOLVED

That the Annual Meeting of the Parish take place immediately after the meeting of the Parish Council in May.

Apr11/17 Date for the First Meeting of the New council

RESOLVED

That the first meeting of the new council be held on the 12th May 2011.

Apr11/18 Report from Councillors

It was noted that the hedge adjacent to Coxleigh Barton had still not been trimmed by the Water Authority and the clerk undertook to report this again.

It was also noted that the North Devon Journal had reported Shirwell as not requiring an election, this was untrue as 8 candidates had put themselves forward for the 7 Councillor positions.

Councillor Tucker arrived at this point of the meeting and presented his report.

Apr11/19 Report of District Councillor

Councillor Tucker said that his report would be brief but drew member's attention to the grants that were available to Village Halls for Photo Voltaic Panels.

Apr11/20 Questions

There were no questions to the District councillor

Apr11/21 Legislation Regarding Clerks Salary

The Clerk advised members that Her Majesties Revenue and Customs Department had decreed that Clerk's salaries must now be paid via an official payroll system. Members briefly discussed the possibility of awarding the salary through the medium of an honorarium and also discussed the offer by North Devon Council to provide a payroll service at an initial cost of £25.00 and an ongoing cost of £15 per salary slip. Members felt that the offer was welcome but was expensive. Councillor Tucker undertook to take up the costs with North Devon Council to see if they could be lowered.

RESOLVED

- That the Clerk be instructed to progress that payment of his salary through the medium of the North Devon Council dependant on the cost negotiations being undertaken by Councillor J Tucker.
- The Chairman write to North Devon Council thanking them for their offer but querying the cost.

Apr11/22 Clerks Report

The Clerk had nothing to report.

Apr11/23 Urgent Business

There was none

Before the close of the meeting members joined together in congratulating the Chairman on the conduct of his business and thanking him for his service to the Village during his tenure as a Councillor. In turn, he expressed his appreciation of the support he had had from other Councillors and asked for his best wishes to be recorded to those Councillors who were not standing again.

The Council then joined together in thanking County Councillor A Davis and District Councillor J Tucker for the service they gave to the community.

PART 2

The Chairman moved that

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public are temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw.

Confidential Minutes of the meeting held on the 10th March 2011

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council
County Councillors Report
April 2010

£7 million repair programme for Devon's roads

A NEW £7 million programme of repairs is underway on Devon's roads.

The extensive scheme is being carried out as part of routine inspections on the entire length of Devon County Council's 8,000-mile highway network.

Due to the amount of damage caused to the county's roads over the winter, specialist repair teams will work in advance of the usual monitoring teams to find, identify and permanently fix potholes, or carry out interim repairs on more minor roads.

This work will be audited within two weeks during the inspections, and any additional defects which are found will be dealt with by further teams dealing with emergency repairs.

The previous winter had left Devon with an estimated repair bill of more than £11 million over and above that of a normal winter, and this year is expected to exceed that figure following the lowest temperatures for 30 years.

The County Council has responded with rapid response teams carrying out temporary repairs to ensure that Devon's roads remain as safe as possible. They have filled more than 47,000 potholes in just over two months, taking the pothole repairs during the financial year for 2009/10 to around 85,000. That compares with 40,000 potholes filled in 2009 which was double the usual amount fixed during a normal year.

Changes to the national concessionary bus pass

Government changes to the eligibility criteria for the national concessionary bus pass started on Tuesday 6 April 2010.

Anyone born on or before 5 April 1950 and resident in England is eligible for a national bus pass from their 60th birthday.

However from Tuesday 6 April 2010 anyone born after 5 April 1950, the age of eligibility for a bus pass for women will be the pension age, and for men it will be the pensionable age of a woman born on the same day.

The government is gradually increasing the state pension age for women from 60 to 65. This means that by 6th April 2020 both the pension age and the age of eligibility for a bus pass will be the same for both men and women.

Eligibility on the grounds of disability remains unchanged.

Date of birth Date eligible for a national bus pass

To 5th April 1950 60th birthday
6 April 1950 to 5 May 1950 6 May 2010
6 May 1950 to 5 June 1950 6 July 2010
6 June 1950 to 5 July 1950 6 September 2010
6 July 1950 to 5 August 1950 6 November 2010
6 August 1950 to 5 September 1950 6 January 2011
6 September 1950 to 5 October 1950 6 March 2011
6 October 1950 to 5 November 1950 6 May 2011
6 November 1950 to 5 December 1950 6 July 2011

6 December 1950 to 5 January 1951 6 September 2011
6 January 1951 to 5 February 1951 6 November 2011
6 February 1951 to 5 March 1951 6 January 2012
6 March 1951 to 5 April 1951 6 March 2012

Further details can be found at www.direct.gov.uk.

Road deaths and serious injuries in Devon are lowest ever

ROAD deaths and serious injuries in Devon last year were the lowest on record.

There were 30 deaths and 164 serious injuries in Devon in 2009 – 28% lower than in 2008 and a third successive year of improvement.

This compares to 37 deaths and 231 serious injuries in 2008, and 50 deaths and 302 serious injuries in 2007.

Of the 30 deaths last year, 25 were on roads owned by Devon County Council, and five on the Trunk Road Network managed by the Highways Agency. Road users aged over 75 accounted for seven of the deaths and eight motorcyclists were killed. 21 children under sixteen years of age were seriously injured, and 2 killed.

Deaths and serious injuries in 2009 represent a 62% reduction compared to 1998. Most importantly that means lives are being saved, but there are also savings for the health sector and our economy. However, we can't be complacent, nor underestimate the sadness that every single one of these collisions are still causing to families, friends and colleagues all over the county.

Support for carers

A public consultation has been launched recently to seek views on how carers can access and receive support services to enable them to carry out their caring roles.

The consultation forms part of a scrutiny review carried out by a special task group of the independent Health & Adults' Services Scrutiny Committee which will examine how support services for carers can be improved.

The group wants to hear carers' views and experiences about accessing respite care and financial help, how health professionals including GPs cooperate with carers, how accessible services are and how carers cope with any assessment processes and paperwork.

Approximately one in ten people in Devon are carers. Research carried out before the start of the national Carers Week 2009 suggested that three out of four carers are exposed to extreme levels of stress and depression as a direct result of caring and that they had been stretched to their limits.

There is frustration with the bureaucracy of accessing care and benefits and the burden of the role were the most common reasons cited as forcing carers to breaking point and this exercise will identify ways to improve support for carers.

Anyone interested in taking part in the consultation and giving evidence to the task group, or would like an informal chat or more information, can contact Janine Gassmann on 01392 384383.

Letters and emails are also welcome and can be used as evidence to support the review. Email janine.gassmann@devon.gov.uk or post to Janine Gassmann, Scrutiny Officer, County Hall, Room G36, Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 4QD.

All submissions should be received by 1 May 2010. It is anticipated that the task group will report to the Health and Adults' services Scrutiny Committee in September 2010.

Unitary Update

THE EXETER AND DEVON (STRUCTURAL CHANGES) ORDER 2010 AND
THE NORWICH AND NORFOLK (STRUCTURAL CHANGES) ORDER 2010

The orders came into effect on Thursday March 25th.

On the 27th April DCC and Norfolk county council get their high court hearing which will decide if there is a case for Judicial review.

Andrea Davis

County Councillor Combe Martin Rural.

Cabinet member for Children's Health and Wellbeing

Deputy Chairman Exmoor national Park

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